



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

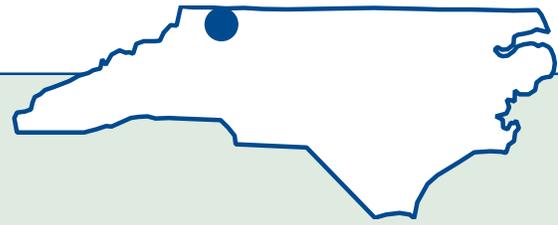
Sparta, NC

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Town of Sparta was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in the Appalachian Mountain range of northwestern North Carolina, Sparta (population 1,817) is the Allegheny County seat and its only municipality. Since 2000, the town has witnessed the closing of four of its top five employers. These closings resulted in the loss of nearly 2,000 manufacturing jobs, or one-third of the total labor force. The unemployment rate in Allegheny County is 8.8 percent, and the Town of Sparta's poverty rate is 18.3 percent. Sparta plans to follow up on previous groundwater sampling that suggested the presence of contamination at a site designated for the location of the Sparta Teapot Museum. Former drycleaning activities at the site are suspected to have caused the contamination. Once assessed and cleaned up, the site



Assessment Grant

New
2006

\$50,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Town of Sparta for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to further characterize chlorinated solvent contamination at the Sparta Teapot Museum site. Grant funds will be used to install a minimum of two permanent groundwater monitoring wells, collect surface soil samples, collect groundwater elevations from all monitoring wells, and conduct an upgradient groundwater assessment in the shallow and intermediate groundwater depths.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team
404-562-8866

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Town of Sparta, NC
336-372-8118, ext. 39

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

will house a private collection of sculptural objects and functional art. The collection is the catalyst for the redevelopment of Sparta's central business district. Brownfields redevelopment will attract more than 60,000 visitors a year to Sparta, and spur business and entrepreneurial opportunities for the development of new shops, galleries, restaurants, and overnight accommodations that will create more than 120 jobs.